

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03848 061259Z

53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAJ-01 ACDA-07 AID-05 /069 W
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P R 060930Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3891

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3848

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY VN ASEAN

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL VISITS KUALA LUMPUR

SUMMARY. VIETNAMESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN BEGAN A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO MALAYSIA JULY 5 WITH A CALL FOR STRENGTHENED BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

ACCORDING TO A REALIABLE LOCAL PRESS SOURCE, HE

ASSURED PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN JULY 6 THAT VIETNAM WOULD NOT EXPORT ARMS OR REVOLUTION TO ANY COUNTRY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND HE SAID THAT VIETNAM OPPOSES THE DOMINATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BY ANY SUPERPOWER. PHAM SAID THAT VIETNAM IS FOR THE MOMENT NOT INTERESTED IN JOINING ASEAN OR IN SUBSCRIBING TO THE CONCEPT OF A SOUTHEAST ASIAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZPEN), BUT THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT AT SOME LATER STAGE VIETNAM WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED. HUSSEIN TOLD PHAM

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PAGE 02 KUALA 03848 061259Z

THAT THE GOM WOULD LIKE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO

VIETNAM, AND THE REVIVAL OF VIETNAM'S RUBBER PLANTATIONS WAS MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. VIETNAMESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN ARRIVED TO KUALA LUMPUR JULY 5 AS THE FIRST STOP ON HIS TOUR OF FOUR ASEAN COUNTRIES. IN HIS AIRPORT STATEMENT PHAN DECLARED THAT VIETNAM IS A SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRY AND THAT HE HAD COME TO MALAYSIA "WITH SERIOUS INTENT AND GOOD WILL, AND WITH A DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES." PHAN SPOKE ONLY OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WHEN HE SAID THAT VIETNAM AIMS TO STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

2. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL PRESS CONTACT, PHAN, IN THE COURSE OF A 25 MINUTE CALL, ASSURED PM HUSSEIN THAT VIETNAM WILL NOT EXPORT ARMS OR REVOLUTION TO ANY COUNTRY, NOR WILL IT GIVE SUPPORT TO ELEMENTS OF ANY SORT WHICH OPPOSE THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS SOURCE, PHAN SAID THAT HANOI IS "FOR THE MOMENT" NOT INTERESTED IN JOINING ASEAN OR IN SUBSCRIBING TO THE CONCEPT OF THE ZPFN (ALTHOUGH HE DID SAY IN HIS AIRPORT STATEMENT THAT VIETNAM SEEKS STRONG RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR THE SAKE OF GENUINE INDEPENDENCE, PEACE AND NEUTRALITY IN THE REGION.") HOWEVER, SAID PHAN, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT AT SOME LATER STAGE A VIETNAMESE INTEREST IN ASEAN WOULD NOT EXIST. PHAN ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT VIETNAM OPPOSES THE DOMINATION OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION BY ANY SUPERPOWER, WHETHER IT BE THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION OR CHINA.

3. HUSSEIN APPARENTLY TOLD PHAN THAT MALAYSIA STANDS READY TO HELP VIETNAM IN ANY WAY IT CAN AND THE REHABILITATION OF VIETNAM'S RUBBER PLANTATIONS WAS MENTIONED AS ONE POSSIBLE PROGRAM. PHAN IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT RUBBER PROJECTS IN MALAYSIA LATER DURING HIS FOUR-DAY STAY.
UNDERHILL

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